



What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior used by one individual to control or exert power over another individual in the context of an intimate relationship. These abusive behaviors can include physical assault, verbal and emotional abuse, sexual abuse or financial abuse, as well as threats that can make a person fear for their safety.

Any person can experience domestic violence regardless of that person’s age, gender, income, disability, education, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, or knowledge of interpersonal violence. Likewise, anyone can be a perpetrator of violence.

Why Do Victims Stay?

Abusive individuals make it very difficult for victims to escape the relationship. Sadly, some victims have suffered from abuse for many years.

In some cases, victims do not stay; however, they may stay as a result of:

- Financial dependence on the abuser
- Low self-esteem
- Fear for their safety or safety of children
- Hope that the abusive individual will change

Department of Community and Human Services



Domestic Violence Program
 24-hour hotline and office:
 703.746.4911
alexandriava.gov/domesticviolence

It is important for victims and survivors to know that they are not alone, and the abuse is not their fault.

Help is Available

The Alexandria Domestic Violence Program provides:

- A 24-hour confidential hotline providing crisis intervention, counseling and safety planning
- Emergency housing for individuals who are victims of domestic violence and their children at the Domestic Violence Safehouse
- Information and referral Services to the community resources
- Outreach counseling for individuals involved in violent relationships
- Court Advocacy for victims of domestic violence, referrals for legal issues and accompaniment to court hearings
- Support Groups for individuals who are, or have been, in abusive relationships
- Individual and group counseling for children who witness domestic violence
- Speakers for community groups interested in learning about domestic violence and related topics

Alexandria Police911(Emergency)
 Non-emergency703.746.4444
 TTY.....703.746.3288
 Alexandria Hospital703.504.3065
 Victim/Witness Assistance ...703.746.4100
 Commonwealth’s Attorney.....703.746.4100

